

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN INDIA; THE CASE OF S.S. MANN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the serious human rights problems in India—especially in Punjab and Kashmir. I would like to focus today on the case of Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann—a former Member of Parliament. He has been held in an Indian prison for over 2 months now for the simple act of making a speech.

Mr. Mann was arrested after making a speech December 26 in Punjab, Khalistan, in front of a crowd of 50,000 Sikhs. At that time, he called for a peaceful, democratic, non-violent movement to liberate Khalistan. Major Sikh political groups called for an independent Khalistan in October 1987. In his speech, Mr. Mann asked those attending to raise their hands if they agreed with him that a peaceful movement for a free and independent Khalistan is necessary. Every hand was raised.

Mr. Mann is being held without trial or formal charges under India's brutal Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act. This oppressive law has been universally condemned by human rights groups around the world. It allows the Government to detain virtually anyone in prison for nearly 2 years without filing charges or going to court. Sikhs and Moslems detained under this law are routinely tortured and often murdered. How can a country which proclaims itself the world's largest democracy behave in such a manner?

On January 12, I, along with 25 of my colleagues wrote to the Prime Minister of India, P.V. Narasimha Rao, to demand Mr. Mann's release. The letter was signed by prominent members of both parties, Republicans and Democrats. While we disagree on many things, we all agree that everyone around the world is entitled to certain basic human rights—freedom from torture and other violent abuses, dignity, and self-determination.

India's response to our letter was extremely disappointing. Instead of doing the right thing and releasing Mr. Mann, the Government of India dug up old charges against him from 1985—charges long ago discredited—and added them to the charges against Mr. Mann.

India's harassment of Sikh leaders, and its revival of old trumped-up charges against Mr. Mann demonstrate India's fear of the potency of the movement for an independent Khaslistan. The fact that only 4 percent of Sikhs in Punjab participated in State elections organized by the Government in New Delhi in 1992 is a further indication of the Indian Government's weakness in that region. What India must understand is that, if a people are determined to be free, it cannot hold them at the point of a gun forever. India has over a half-a-million armed forces in Punjab to force its will on the Sikh people. It cannot sustain this heavy military presence forever. The army

rules in Punjab with a ruthlessness and brutality that we in this country have a hard time understanding. However, every murder, act of torture, or rape committed by India's Army or paralegal forces will only increase the animosity between these two peoples.

Mr. Mann is the most visible spokesman for the freedom of Khalistan in Punjab. The Government's intimidation of Mr. Mann and other peaceful advocates must not be met with silence by the world's leaders. As long as India continues to practice this kind of repression, the other governments of the world must speak out and protest. A country which practices systematic repression should not receive aid from free countries like ours. The United States must not support tyranny.

The release of S.S. Mann would be a good first step by the Indian Government to demonstrate its commitment to democratic principles. I call for Mr. Mann's immediate release, and I call upon the First Lady, who will be traveling to India at the end of the month, to raise the issue of human rights with the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point an article from the January 19 issue of the Indian Express of Chandigarh about our letter to the Prime Minister calling for Mr. Mann's release.

[From the Indian Express Chandigarh, Jan. 19, 1995]

TWENTY-SIX CONGRESSMEN PROTEST TO RAO OVER MANN'S ARREST

WASHINGTON.—Influential members of the new Republican-controlled Congress have fired their first anti-India salvo on urgings from the pro-Khalistan lobby.

Hardly two weeks in the session, the Congress has seen a bipartisan group of 6 lawmakers write to the Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, protesting the detention of Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann.

The group has also called for the repeal of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (prevention) Act (TADA). The letter was written on the urging of the Council of Khalistan, the leading pro-Khalistani lobby in the US headed by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh.

Influence: Although it was initiated by the usual coterie of India-bashers led by New Delhi's most acerbic critic on Capitol Hill, the Republican, Mr. Dan Burton, the difference this time around is that many of them now hold leadership positions and wield considerable influence.

Mr. Burton himself is now a senior member of the House International Relations Committee. Other Republicans who had signed the letter are Mr. Gerald Solomon, the chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. Phil Crane, the head of the Trade Sub-committee of the powerful Ways and Means Committee and Mr. Tom Bliley, chairman of the Commerce Committee.

Thus, while Mr. Solomon could allow anti-India legislation and resolutions to the floor of the House for debate, Mr. Bliley and Mr. Crane could put a damper on the burgeoning Indo-US commerce and trade relations by calling for punitive action against India on trade matters and keep pushing for laws such as Super 301 and Special 301.

Mann's Arrest: In their letter to Mr. Rao, the legislators said that "we find it very

troubling that a leader of Mr. Mann's stature can be arrested for exercising his freedom of speech."

The legislators said that they had been informed by Dr. Aulakh, that Mr. Mann, a former Member of Parliament and senior leader of the Shiromani Akali Dal party, was arrested on January 5 for "having advocated independence for Khalistan by peaceful means."

They noted that Mr. Mann had urged a rally of 50,000 people to show their support for "a peaceful movement toward an independent state by raising their hands, and that the entire crowd did so."

The legislators wrote that they were concerned that this was not the first time Mr. Mann had been arrested under TADA, and noted that he spent five years in prison during the 1980s "without trial and without formal charges being filed against him in a court of law."

The lawmakers noted that according to press reports, "he was subject to physical and psychological torture during that period—including electric shock and having his beard pulled out in tufts."

Misuse of TADA: In January 1994, Mr. Mann was again arrested under TADA, and over 50 charges filed against him "were later dropped and he was released," they said. The legislators wrote to Mr. Rao that "it appears that the Indian government is using [the] TADA to harass and intimidate Mr. Mann."

The legislators also called on the Prime Minister "to recommend to your Parliament that (the) TADA be reformed to bring it into compliance with generally accepted human rights."

POLICE TRAINING FOR GEORGIA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the United States is considering providing police training to Georgia. While we would all like to help Chairman Shevardnadze in his fight to stabilize his torn country, I have fundamental reservations about the wisdom of providing police training to Georgia at this time.

Those reservations are spelled out in a letter I sent recently to the Department of State. I ask that my letter, and the Department's response, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMITTEE ON

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, February 28, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,

Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY. I write to oppose U.S. assistance or training at this time for police forces in the Government of Georgia.

I support carefully crafted police training programs overseas. In particular, I support the Administration's efforts to fight organized crime in Eastern Europe and the N.I.S.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

through targeted assistance to police forces in those regions. These efforts, however, carry a degree of risk. In the case of Georgia, that risk is too high to merit the use of scarce U.S. Government resources.

We all want to be supportive of Chairman Shevardnadze in his efforts to bring peace and prosperity to his troubled country. The United States has provided more the \$250 million in food aid to Georgia since Fiscal Year 1992, which I believe demonstrates U.S. support. But the risks of establishing a police training program in Georgia outweigh any possible benefits.

Providing police training to foreign countries requires us to ask tough questions about who will benefit. Do we have reasonable assurances that those being trained are not corrupt, are committed to the rule of law, and will not engage in abusive practices?

In the case of Georgia, I do not believe we can answer "yes" to those questions. Wide-spread media reports, and the State Department's own reporting, indicate massive and pervasive corruption in the Government of Georgia, especially in the police forces. Much of the substantial U.S. aid already sent is reported to have been diverted—by some estimates, as much as half. Organized crime reportedly controls important sectors of the government.

Under these circumstances, it seems to me that the possibilities for abuse in a police training program are unacceptably high. The United States could too easily become associated with unlawful elements of the Georgian Government, and support for police training generally could be weakened as a result. I believe that Chairman Shevardnadze must take more forceful steps to attack criminal elements within his government before the United States put its credibility, and scarce resources, on the line with a police training program of Georgia.

I understand that an interagency team will visit Georgia in the near future to assess the need for a police training program. I believe that when you assess the risks as opposed to any possible benefits, you will agree with me that such a program at this time simply cannot be supported.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, March 7, 1995.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of February 28 to Secretary Christopher regarding possible U.S. criminal justice assistance for the Republic of Georgia.

The Administration shares your concern that U.S. assistance and training for law enforcement personnel in the NIS not be abused by criminal or repressive elements. Recognizing the potential for misuse, our practice has been to ground our NIS programs firmly in the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Our interagency assessment team scheduled to visit Tbilisi later this month will examine precisely the issues raised in your letter. They will gather information regarding (a) Georgia's capacity to employ properly U.S. criminal justice assistance and (b) which programs might best promote democratization, human rights and the rule of law in Georgia.

In the vacuum created by the collapse of the Soviet Union, crime and corruption have gained a worrisome beachhead in the NIS. It is a problem by no means limited to Russia.

Chairman Shevardnadze, senior officials of his government and Ambassador Brown in Tbilisi repeatedly have identified crime as the most important impediment to economic and political reform in Georgia.

The danger that NIS crime poses for the nascent democracies as well as the broader international community requires a thorough consideration of the most appropriate U.S. assistance. The Georgians have asked for our help. That interagency assessment team visiting Tbilisi this month constitutes a modest response, consistent with our limited resources. We would be happy to brief you on our findings when our team returns from Tbilisi.

I hope we have been responsive to your concerns. Please feel free to call me on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
*Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.*

REMEMBERING TIM SULLIVAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, thousands of people in Monmouth, Ocean, and Middlesex Counties, NJ, were helped over the years by a dedicated public servant whose name most never knew. This public servant worked tirelessly and without personal gain or recognition assisting veterans, Social Security beneficiaries, students, and others on critical personal problems. He helped mayors and councilmen fix bridges, dredge waterways, and restore downtown areas so that men and women could work and the Jersey shore could prosper.

Timothy F. Sullivan, this public servant in the truest sense, died Saturday of a heart attack. For 17 years, from 1965 to 1982, he was administrative assistant to Representative James J. Howard, former chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee.

When Jim Howard, my distinguished and accomplished predecessor, won an uphill battle for Congress in 1964, he had the good judgment to ask Tim, his good friend, fellow teacher, and campaign adviser, to come to Washington as his chief aide.

Because Democrats were rarely elected in that old Third Congressional District on any level, Jim Howard's prospects for reelection were less than bright. But Jim and Marlene Howard had been eager to take the risk and their enthusiasm was catching.

Tim and his wife, Marilyn, pulled up stakes with six young children. Tim quit his job and came to Washington to begin his long career as a trusted adviser and manager, taking the heat over the years when necessary but not claiming the credit when it was his due. He kept Jim Howard's office on an even keel through tough elections and crises in the district like life-threatening coastal hurricanes and proposals to shut down Fort Monmouth and put thousands out of work.

Through it all, he helped Jim Howard develop a reputation for excellent constituent service. Tim had a right to be proud in the early eighties when the New York Times cited a poll taken of New Jersey staffers and Members of Congress in which Jim Howard's office

operation was voted the best in the New Jersey congressional delegation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIAMI TIMES NEWSPAPER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the week of March 12 is Black Newspaper Week. In recognition of the important role that black newspapers have played in bringing about a fair and just society, I rise to pay special tribute to the Miami Times newspaper, one of the largest, most innovative, and important weekly newspapers in America.

After very careful and deliberative consideration Henry E. Sigismund Reeves decided that the black community could not depend on either their friends or enemies to express their ideas and aspirations. So on September 1, 1923, Henry E.S. Reeves founded the Miami Times as a voice for Miami's black community.

In its 73 years of existence the Miami Times has taken strong stances on issues such as segregation, economic opportunity, equal justice, and the positive promotion of black life. Through its efforts, the paper helped to integrate Miami's public beaches, golf courses, and played a critical role in winning concessions for Miami blacks in the successful black tourism boycott of Miami.

The Miami Times has played an important role not only as a protest journal but also as an instrument for revealing the human dimension of the black personality. White men of the day scoffed at the idea of love and family ties among blacks. By featuring blacks as parents, brides, mothers, and fathers, the paper exposed the one-dimensional treatment of blacks in the mainstream press.

Long before Ebony and Jet magazines came on the scene, the Miami Times stressed facets of black life which were ignored in white media. Black achievement, as expressed in the careers of Phyllis Wheatley, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Richard Allen, and our own Athalie "Mama" Range, Hon. Joe Lang Kershaw, and Gwen Sawyer Cherry.

The Miami Times also emphasized racial pride and other values of the black community. It chronicled the dreams, aspirations, and achievements of our community.

The Miami Times has also served as a catalyst for change between people outside of the black community. In 1987, the Miami Times became one of the first black newspapers in America to exchange editorials, letters, and articles with a Jewish newspaper, the Miami Jewish Tribune, in an effort to foster better understanding and cooperation between the two communities. At that time then, Miami Times publisher Garth Reeves believed that such a partnership between a black and a Jewish newspaper would help to close what was seen as a growing chasm between the two communities.

A few years later, the Miami Times began exchanging opinion pieces with one of America's great Spanish-language weeklies *Diario Las Americas*, in an effort to forge better links between blacks and Latinos.

Since 1923, four generations of Reeves have managed the Miami Times. Founder